

The ADA and Emergency Management

Presented By:
Pacific ADA Center

Purpose



- ▶ Overview of how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies in disasters and emergencies.

What is the ADA?

- ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990
 - ▶ Federal CIVIL RIGHTS legislation that says it is illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, private businesses, telecommunications and transportation
 - ▶ Goal: The full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of American society
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Defining Disability

- ▶ A physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities or
- ▶ A person with a record of such impairment or
- ▶ A person who is regarded as having such an impairment

Titles of the ADA

- ▶ Title I: Employment
- ▶ Title II: Public Entities (State & Local Governments)

Emergency Management

- ▶ Title III: Public Accommodations (Private Businesses)

American Red Cross, non-profits,
privately operated shelters

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- ▶ 5 Title IV: Telecommunications

Title II Responsibilities

State and local governments must provide **program access** to people with disabilities.

(applies to state and local emergency management)



Title III Responsibilities

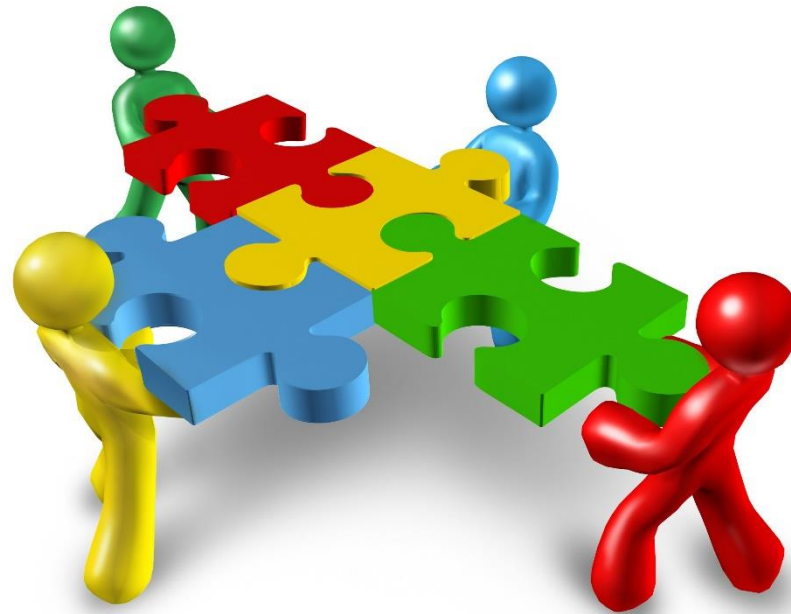
Places of public accommodation must remove architectural barriers

(applies to American Red Cross, non-profits, privately operated shelters)



Integration under ADA

- ▶ Programs, goods, services and activities under all titles of the ADA must be integrated to the greatest extent possible.



Shelters

- ▶ Under the ADA, shelter operators **must reasonably modify policies, practices, or procedures** to avoid discrimination.
- ▶ EXAMPLE 1: Modifying a “no pets” policy in a shelter or on a transportation vehicle to allow a service animal.
- ▶ EXAMPLE 2: Modifying a shelter policy that prohibits outside visitors to allow individuals with disabilities to use attendants or personal assistants within the shelter.

Effective Communication of Emergency Information

- ▶ An ADA covered entity must ensure that its **communications with individuals with communication disabilities* are equally as effective as communications with others.**
- ▶ * Includes participants in program companions, and members of the general public.



Sign Language Interpreters on TV

- ▶ Could be out of the frame if camera person does not understand their importance.



News Captioning

- ▶ Captioning on news scrolls is not always correct



Transportation

- ▶ Transportation provided by both public and private entities must not discriminate against persons with disabilities
- ▶ Vehicles must meet certain accessibility requirements.
- ▶ Applies to buses, subways, rapid and commuter rail (for Title II), and to private shuttles (for Title III).
- ▶ Collaborate with existing non-profits, schools, and others that operate accessible vehicles to provide accessible transportation during an evacuation (can use MOUs).

Pacific ADA Center



555 12th Street, Suite 1030
Oakland, CA 94607
Toll Free: 1-800-949-4232 (V/TTY)
Website: www.adapacific.org
Email: adatech@adapacific.org